

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-3 and 8-10 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 4-7, 11-14 have been amended to clarify the invention. Claims 15-18 have been newly added. No new matter has been added to the amendments.

Claims 1-3, 8-10, and 15-18 are thus pending in the application.

Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited. Early and favorable first action on the merits is earnestly solicited.


**Conclusion**

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Demetra R. Smith-Stewart (Reg. No. 47,354) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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